

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

Claims 1-33. (Cancelled).

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a shell-type catalyst comprising:

a) applying a suspension to a substantially nonporous inorganic support material having a BET surface area of less than $80 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ [[a]] the suspension consisting essentially of:

(i) at least one water soluble catalytically active metal compound; and

(ii) a substantially water insoluble coating compound selected from the group consisting of:

~~SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 and ZrO_2~~ ; SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 and ZrO_2 .

b) drying said suspension onto said support material; and

c) activating ~~the preparation of step b)~~ in a reducing gas stream.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) The process [[of]] according to claim 34, wherein said suspension consists of said water soluble metal compound and said substantially water insoluble coating compound selected from the group consisting of: ~~SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 and ZrO_2~~ ; SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 and ZrO_2 .

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said support material comprises a granulate or molded article of at least one member selected from the group consisting of: ~~glass; quartz; ceramic; silica; alumina; graphite; molded carbon;~~

~~metal; or steatite~~ glass, quartz, ceramic, silica, alumina, graphite, molded carbon, metal and steatite.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said support material comprises a molded article of at least one member selected from the group consisting of SiO₂ and Al₂O₃.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) The process ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 36, wherein said molded article comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of: ~~a hollow extrudate; solid extrudate; sphere; granule; tablet; and strand~~ a hollow extrudate, solid extrudate, sphere, granule, tablet and strand.

Claim 39. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said support material has a diameter from 0.5 mm to 50 mm.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the BET surface of said support material is less than 10 m²/g.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said substantially nonporous support material has a pore volume of less than 0.5 ml/g.

Claim 42. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said substantially nonporous support material has a pore volume of less than 0.1 ml/g.

Claim 43. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said support material has an Fe₂O₃ content of less than 0.5% wt.

Claim 44. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said water soluble catalytically active metal compound is a water soluble noble metal compound

selected from the group consisting of: ~~Ru; Rh; Pd; Ag; Os; Ir; Pt; and Au.~~ Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Os, Ir, Pt and Au.

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) The process ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 44, wherein said water soluble metal compound is in the form of an oxide, hydroxide, carbonate, halide, nitrate, salt of an organic acid or a complex.

Claim 46. (Currently Amended) The process ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 44, wherein said suspension contains greater than 1% wt. aqueous solution of said water soluble noble metal compound calculated as the metal.

Claim 47. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 44, wherein said suspension contains >5% wt. aqueous solution of said water soluble noble metal compound, calculated as the metal.

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 44, wherein at least 0.01% wt. of said noble metal compound, calculated as the metal, is soluble in water at 30°C.

Claim 49. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the maximum average agglomerate size of said oxide is 15 μm .

Claim 50. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the agglomerate size of said oxide is 3 μm to 7 μm .

Claim 51. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the BET surface area of said water insoluble coating compound is from 50 m^2/g to 500 m^2/g .

Claim 52. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the compacted density of said insoluble coating compound is from 10 g/l to 800 g/l.

Claim 53. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the weight ratio of said water soluble noble metal compound to said insoluble coating compound calculated as the metal is from 0.1:1 to 5:1.

Claim 54. (Currently Amended) The process ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 53, wherein the weight ratio of said noble metal compound to said insoluble coating compound is between 0.5:1 and 2:1.

Claim 55. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the weight ratio of said noble metal compound, calculated as the metal, to the total weight of the shell-type catalyst is between 0.0001:1 and 0.02:1.

Claim 56. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the weight ratio of the coating compound to the total weight of the shell-type catalyst, calculated as the metal, is between 0.005:1 and 0.04:1.

Claim 57. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the thickness of the coating shell of the catalyst is from 0.1 μm to 20 μm .

Claim 58. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the concentration of the water soluble metal component, calculated as the metal, is from 0.1% wt. to 1% wt. based on the catalyst.

Claim 59. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the concentration of the water insoluble coating material, calculated as the metal, is from 0.05% wt. to 1% wt. based on the catalyst.

Claim 60. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of either~~ according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said reducing gas stream contains hydrogen.

Claim 61. (New) The shell catalyst produced by the process according to claim 34.